

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 L-01

PM-03 SAJ-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 RSC-01 OIC-01 EB-03 /045 W

----- 102526

P R 181725Z DEC 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9369

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 4860

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6999

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJ: DECEMBER 17 PERMREPS LUNCH

1. CAUTION: THE "PERMREPS LUNCH" IS AN INFORMAL, SUBSTANTIVE, BUT EXPLICITLY OFF-THE-RECORD, MEETING OF NATO PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES PLUS THE SYG AND ASYG. THESE LUNCHEONS TAKE PLACE EVERY TUESDAY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR (EXCEPT AUGUST) AND HAVE BECOME A CHERISHED INSTITUTION AT NATO HEADQUARTERS. ATTENDANCE IS RESTRICTED TO AMBASSADORS AND IS BY SPECIFIC INVITATION OF THE HOST. (CHARGES DO NOT AUTOMATICALLY ATTEND, BUT MAY BE INVITED IF AMBASSADORS ARE ABSENT FROM BRUSSELS ON BUSINESS.) PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TAKE TURNS HOSTING THESE GATHERINGS, WHICH TAKE PLACE EXCLUSIVELY AT RESIDENCES. AN ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDING OF THESE LUNCH DISCUSSIONS IS THAT THEY ARE INFORMAL, WITH PERMREPS SPEAKING PERSONALLY IN MANY CASES, CONFIDENT THAT THEIR UNINSTRUCTED COMMENTS WILL NOT BE REPORTED OR IF REPORTED, WILL NOT BE ATTRIBUTED BY NAME. RECIPIENTS OF CABLES REPORTING ON PERMREPS LUNCHEONS SHOULD NOT REFER TO PERMEP LUNCH DISCUSSIONS IN CONTACTS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS, AND PARTICULARLY SHOULD NEVER REPEAT NEVER ATTRIBUTE A PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE'S COMMENTS
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BY NAME.

2. SACEUR - AT DEC 17 PERMREPS LUNCH, SYG LUNS REMINDED PERMREPS THAT THE NEW SACEUR, GENERAL HAIG, WOULD ATTEND HIS FIRST

COUNCIL MEETING ON DECEMBER 18 AND WOULD BE FORMALLY INTRODUCED AT THAT TIME. IT WAS EMPHASIZED THAT PERMREPS SHOULD NOT CALL ON THE NEW SACEUR UNTIL HE HAD MADE INITIAL CALLS ON THEM. DURING THIS BRIEF DISCUSSION, AMB BRUCE EULOGIZED GENERALS GOODPASTER AND HAIG.

3. FORMAT AND CEREMONIES SURROUNDING DEC MINISTERIALS. - THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH COMMENTS OF A NUMBER OF PERMREPS THAT THERE WERE TOO MANY OFFICIAL LUNCHEES AND DINNERS SCHEDULED IN CONNECTION WITH THE MINISTERIAL MEETINGS LAST WEEK (DEC 9-13). IT WAS ALMOST UNANIMOUSLY FELT THAT ONE SUCH CEREMONY A DAY WOULD IN THE FUTURE BE SUFFICIENT. PERMREPS GENERALLY AGREED SUCCESS OF NAC MINISTERIAL (DEC 12-13) HAD BEEN IN LARGE MEASURE DUE TO NRE FORMAT WHICH INCLUDED AN EXTENSIVE RESTRICTED SESSION. HOWEVER, PERMREPS REVIEWED IN SOME DETAIL DISADVANTAGES OF THIS FORUM INsofar AS THE MATTER OF NOTETAKING IS CONCERNED. SOME AMBASSADORS ARGUED FOR AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF SEATS ALLOCATED TO MEMBER COUNTRIES AT RESTRICTED SESSIONS. OTHERS ARGUED THAT ATTENDANCE MUST BE KEPT SMALL AND IF NECESSARY AMBASSADORS THEMSELVES SHOULD TAKE NOTES. ONE PERMEP FROM THE LOW COUNTRIES THOUGHT RESTRICTED MEETINGS WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE IF THEY WERE HELD AROUND A SMALLER TABLE AND IF THERE WERE EVEN FEWER PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE THAN WAS THE CASE LAST WEEK. PERMREPS AGREED NOTETAKING AT RESTRICTED SESSIONS REMAINS A PROBLEM.

4. FRELOC - BRUCE REFERRED TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE MARTINIQUE COMMUNIQUE OF THE SETTLEMENT FOR \$100 MILLION OF THE U.S. FRELOC CLAIM AGAINST FRANCE. BRUCE SAID THE U.S. RECOGNIZES THAT A PORTION OF THE RECEIPTS FROM THIS BILATERAL SETTLEMENT WITH FRANCE MUST BE REIMBURSED TO NATO AND THAT THE U.S. WOULD NEED TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT WITH NATO AUTHORITIES DEFINING THE EXACT AMOUNT.

5. PORTUGAL. - THE PORTUGUESE PERMREP COMMENTED ON INTERNAL CONDITIONS IN HIS COUNTRY. BRUCE CALLED ATTENTION TO THE TEXT OF THE DEC 13 JOINT U.S.- PORTUGUESE STATEMENT ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL, AND ESPECIALLY TO THAT PORTION OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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TEXT IN WHICH USG URGED OTHER FRIENDLY COUNTRIES TO HELP TOO, EITHER BILATERALLY OR IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE UNITED STATES.

6. APAG- BRUCE SUGGESTED THAT THENAC MIGHT SOON PLACE ON ITS AGENDA, PERHAPS FOR A MEETING IN JANUARY, THE QUESTION OF THE PROCEDURAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JUNE 1974 APAG REPORT. NOTING THAT THESE QUESTIONS WERE TO HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED ON SEPT 18 BUT THAT THE NAC MEETING THAT DATE WAS CANCELLED, BRUCE SAID THAT FOR ITS PART THE UNITED STATES APPROVES THE TWO BASIC APAG PROCEDURAL RECOMMENDATIONS, NAMELY (A) THAT AT ITS NEXT MEETING APAG CONSIDER "THE PROBLEM OF NATURAL RESOURCES INCLUDING RAW MATERIALS, ENERGY AND FOOD IN THE EAST-WEST CONTEXT," AND (B) THAT APAG MEET THREE TIMES EVERY TWO YEARS, I.E. AT ABOUT

EIGHT MONTH INTERVALS. BRUCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 11 JUN 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATO06999
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741275/abbryzcs.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <30-Oct-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DECEMBER 17 PERMREPS LUNCH
TAGS: PFOR, NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
BELGRADE
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

